

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Please amend claim 4 as follows:

1. (Original) A manufacturing process of a perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising the steps of:
 - forming a disordered antiferromagnetic layer on a substrate;
 - forming a polycrystalline soft magnetic layer on the antiferromagnetic layer;
 - and forming an amorphous soft magnetic layer on the polycrystalline soft magnetic layer;wherein said every steps are carried out while applying a magnetic field having a component parallel to a surface of the substrate.
2. (Original) The manufacturing process according to claim 1, wherein the direction of the magnetic field having a component parallel to the surface of the substrate is substantially parallel to a radial direction of the substrate.
3. (Previously Presented) The manufacturing process according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - forming another polycrystalline soft magnetic layer on the substrate prior to the step of forming the antiferromagnetic layer.
4. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing process according to claim 3, wherein during the step of forming the disordered antiferromagnetic layer, an interlayer exchange coupling ~~is activated~~ occurs between said another polycrystalline soft magnetic layer and the disordered antiferromagnetic layer.